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**FINAL REPORT**

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**ADVANCED EARTH-TO-ORBIT PROPULSION TECHNOLOGY  
INFORMATION, DISSEMINATION AND RESEARCH**

**Submitted to:**

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## BACKGROUND

In the development of the Space Shuttle Main Engine (SSME) and the Space Transportation Main Engine (STME) it was felt by NASA that upgrading the capabilities of this engine concept was necessary in order to meet the challenge of the space transportation system needs for the future. The Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) was given the lead role to identify technology opportunities, develop multi-year plans and to oversee the implementation of these plans with the assistance and involvement of the Lewis Research Center. The overall objective of this program is the establishment of basic discipline technology necessary for an orderly evolution of high pressure oxygen-hydrogen stage combustion rocket engines to meet the needs of the earth-to-orbit space transportation for the next twenty-thirty years. It is expected that the accomplishments of these objectives have contributed to the nation's space program through providing a sound technological foundation for improvement in the technical specialties of rotor dynamics, structural dynamics, fluid and gasdynamics, fatigue/fracture mechanics/life, turbomachinery fluid mechanics, ignition/combustion processes, NDT/NDE inspection method, manufacturing/producibility, materials development/evaluation, cryogenic bearings, and instrumentation.

Since 1984 a series of conferences describing the research achievements on the NASA-wide research and technology programs dealing with advanced oxygen/hydrogen and oxygen/hydrocarbon earth-to-orbit propulsion has been held at Marshall Space Flight Center. The purpose of these conferences was to provide a forum for the timely dissemination to the propulsion community of the results emerging from this program with particular emphasis on the transfer of information from the scientific/research to the designer.

The first conference on the oxygen/hydrogen program was held at MSFC, on June 27-29, 1984. Proceedings of that conference entitled "Advanced High Pressure O<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub> Technology" were published as NASA Conference Publication 2372. Subsequently, NASA's separate research and technology programs dealing with oxygen/hydrogen and oxygen/hydrocarbon propulsion were combined into one program entitled "Advanced Earth-to-Orbit Propulsion Technology". The second conference proceedings entitled "Advanced Earth-to- Orbit Propulsion Technology, Volumes I and II" were published as NASA Conference Publications 2436 and 2437. That conference was held on May 13-15, 1986. The third conference on these subjects was held on May 10-12, 1988. The third conference proceedings entitled "Advanced Earth-to-Orbit Propulsion Technology" were published as in two volumes as NASA Conference Publication 3012. The fourth conference on these subjects was held on May 12 - 15, 1990. The fourth conference proceedings entitled "Advanced Earth-to-Orbit Propulsion Technology - 1990" were published in three volumes as NASA Conference Publication 3092. In this contract, we are responsible for organizing and executing the fifth conference which was held May 19-21, 1992. This fifth conference proceedings entitled "Advanced Earth-to-Orbit Propulsion Technology 1992" were published in two volumes as NASA Conference Publication 3174. A copy of the table of contents and participants list is included in Appendix I. In addition a proceedings entitled Hydrogen Effects on Materials in Propulsion Systems was assembled and submitted to NASA/MSFC in July 1992 for publication. A copy

of the table of contents and participants list is included in Appendix II.

The program grew significantly from nine sessions, with forty-three papers in the first conference to eighteen sessions, three special sessions and two workshops. A total of 129 papers was presented in the 18 regular sessions which were included in the proceedings. An additional 38 presentations were made in the special sessions and workshops and are being published separately. The attendance has approximately doubled from just over 200 in 1984 to about 400 in 1992. The contents of the conference was originally organized into ten topics and has grown to eleven topics which include: Materials Development, Manufacturing, Instrumentation, Turbomachinery, Fluid and Gas Dynamics, Ignition and Combustion, Fatigue and Fracture, Bearing Materials, Bearings, Structural Dynamics, and Controls. Additionally, a Hydrogen Environment Embrittlement in Advanced Propulsion Systems Workshop was conducted concurrently with the 1986 conference, during the 1988 conference a workshop on the Status Review of Hydrocarbon-Fuels/Copper Materials Compatibility was held and during the 1990 conference two workshops (Hydrogen Standardization Workshop and Efficient Engine Workshop) were conducted. The presentations at the 1986 workshop were published in the conference proceedings, the 1988 workshop was composed of informal discussions and manuscripts were not prepared, and the 1990 workshop presentations were published in the conference proceedings. In 1992, three special sessions concentrating on Fluid/Structure Interaction, Robust Turbopump, Turbomachinery Seals and two workshops entitled Propulsion System Avionics and Hydrogen Effects on Materials in Propulsion Systems were conducted concurrently with the conference.

The Marshall Space Flight Center Advanced Earth-to-Orbit Propulsion Technology program is a long standing program. Proper interaction between industry/university and government communities are necessary. It has been demonstrated by each of these conferences that we were able to fill this need to provide a forum for these agencies.

#### SPECIFIC TASKS ACCOMPLISHED:

In order to implement the program the following specific tasks were performed:

1. Together with the designated MSFC personnel, the P.I. coordinated the activities involve in an Advanced Earth-to-Orbit Propulsion Technology Conference held in May 1992.
2. The P.I. with the approval of the designated MSFC personnel was responsible in selecting members to serve on the technical committee for the conferences (Session Chairpersons).
3. The P.I. with the approval of the designated MSFC personnel and Session Chairpersons were responsible for selecting scientists and engineers to participate in the conference.

4. The P.I. with the approval of the designated MSFC personnel and Session Chairpersons selected papers for presentations for at the conference.
5. The P.I. provided all the necessary logistic and technical support for the preparation and duration of the conference.

#### CONCLUDING REMARKS

In these series of conferences, we have achieved our goal to facilitate the quick exchange of up-to-date information and documented them for limited dissemination to the scientific, engineering, and technical communities which include universities, government and industry within the United States. This program has enhanced the research and development activities.

## **APPENDIX I**

**"Advanced Earth-to-Orbit Propulsion Technology 1992 Volume I and II"**  
**NASA Conference Publications 3174**

**Table of Contents and Participant List**

**VOLUME I**  
**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**Foreword**

Welcome, J. Wayne Littles, NASA/MSFC .....	1
OAST Overview, R. L. Kline, NASA Headquarters.....	3
Transportation Thrust and E-T-O Program Overview, E. E. VanLandingham, NASA Headquarters....	7
Earth-to-Orbit Propulsion Technology Program at MSFC, James L. Moses, NASA/MSFC.....	10
Earth-to-Orbit Propulsion Technology Program Comments, Anita D. Liang, NASA/LeRC.....	12
Space Shuttle Main Engine Technology Test Bed Overview, H. V. McConaughey, NASA/MSFC ....	13

**MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION**

Chairpersons: S. J. Gentz, NASA/MSFC and R. L. Dreshfield, NASA/LeRC

Preliminary Evaluation of a Powder Metal Copper-8 Cr-4 Nb Alloy, D. L. Ellis and R. L. Dreshfield, NASA/LeRC.....	18
Observations on W-24Re-Hf-C Wire Reinforced High Temperature Alloy Composites, F. J. Ritzert and R. L. Dreshfield, NASA/LeRC.....	28
Evaluation of Fiber Reinforced Superalloy Airfoil Root Attachment Techniques, L. G. Fritzemeier and J. R. Wooten, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International.....	38
A High Pressure DTA/TGA System For Materials Oxidation Studies, J. W. Bransford and B. J. Filla, National Institute of Standards and Technology .....	48
DTA Analysis of Several Iron and Nickel Based Alloys, J. W. Bransford and B. J. Filla, National Institute of Standards and Technology .....	57
Thermomechanical Processing and Microstructure Relationships in INCO 909, F. P. Cone, UTC- Pratt & Whitney.....	68
Dual Property Super A-286 for National Launch System (NLS) Space Transportation Main Engine (STME) Oxygen Turbopump, F. P. Cone, UTC-Pratt & Whitney.....	77

**MANUFACTURING/PRODUCIBILITY/INSPECTION**

Chairpersons: C. S. Jones, NASA/MSFC and T. P. Herbell, NASA/LeRC

Ceramic Matrix Composites for Rocket Engine Turbine Applications, T. P. Herbell and A. J. Eckel, NASA/LeRC .....	87
Ceramic Matrix Composite Turbopump Development, J. W. Brockmeyer, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International .....	97
Vacuum Plasma Spray Forming of NARLOY-Z, F. R. Zimmerman, R. M. Poorman, NASA/MSFC, T. M. McKechnie, and Y. K. Liaw, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International .....	107
Advanced Welding Process Control Technology, C. S. Jones, A. C. Nunes, K. G. Lawless, NASA/MSFC and K. N. Andersen, Mid-South Engineering .....	115

Non-Destructive Examination of Rocket Motor Components, R. D. Beshears, NASA/MSFC, J. A. Gilbert, Univ. of Alabama in Huntsville, D. R. Matthys, Marquette University .....	121
--	-----

## INSTRUMENTATION

Chairpersons: W. T. Powers, NASA/MSFC and W. C. Nieberding, NASA/LeRC

Fiber Optic Pressure Sensor for Combustion Chamber Monitoring, K. A. James, N. Shrestha, California State Univ. at Long Beach and W. H. Quick, OPCOA Inc. ....	128
Implementation of the Nonintrusive Speed Sensor for the SSME High Pressure Oxidizer Turbopump, J. Reinert, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International.....	134
A Brushless Torquemeter and Derivative Measurements, A. Schwartzbart, S. Balcer, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International.....	138
Progress in Thin Film Heat Flux Sensors, H. A. Will, NASA/LeRC .....	148
Thin Film Thermocouples for High Temperature Applications, L. C. Martin,NASA/LeRC.....	154
Raman Based Leak Detection Technology, T. W. Duryea, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International .....	162
Optical Leak Imaging of Rocket Engine Systems, A. Steffens, R. Delcher, and S. Barkhoudarian, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International ....	173
Leak Detection from the SSME Using Sequential Image Processing, J. A. Malone, BL. M. Smith, and R. A. Crawford, Univ. of Tennessee Space Institute.....	180
Hydrogen Sensor Technology at NASA Lewis Research Center, G. W. Hunter, G. C. Madzsar, P. G. Neudeck, NASA/LeRC, C. C. Liu and Q. H. Wu, Case Western Reserve Univ. ....	190
Correlation of Hydrogen and Air Flow in Critical Flow Nozzles Part 1: Primary Calibration Facility, T. M. Kegel, Colorado Engineering Experiment Station, Inc. ....	200
Small-Inertia Clamp-On Cryogenic Flowmeter Transducer, L. C. Lynnworth, J. E. Matson, T. H. Nguyen, Panametrics Inc. and W. T. Powers, NASA/MSFC .....	207
Vortex Shedding Flowmeters for SSME Ducts, J. D. Siegwarth, and M. A. Lewis National Inst. of Standards and Technology.....	217
A Cryogenic Pressure Sensor For Rocket Engine Applications, S. K. Kahng, NASA/Langley, Q. A. Shams, Analytical Services and Materials Inc., and V. B. Cruz, NASA/Langley .....	226
Progress in Laser Diagnostics for SSME Gas Phase Measurements, J. A. Shirley, United Technologies Research Center.....	238
Application of Laser Induced Fluorescence to Rocket Motor Exhausts, C. W. Brasier, Sverdrup Technology, Inc. ....	248

A Laser Raman Polychromator for Rotational Temperature Measurements of H <sub>2</sub> in Sub-Scale Combustors, C. C. Dobson, R. H. Eskridge, and M. Lee, NASA/MSFC .....	258
Optical Detection of SSME Preburner Faceplate Degradation, A. E. Cooper, W. T. Powers, NASA/MSFC and T. L. Wallace, Air Force Arnold Engr. Dev. Center/SvT .....	264
Status of Spectrometric Evaluation Support for SSME Plumes, L. M. Wyett, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International .....	271
Plume Diagnostics Instrumentation for Flight Rocket Engines, G. C. Madzar, NASA/LeRC, R. L. Bickford, Aerojet Propulsion Division, and D. B. Duncan, Duncan Technologies .....	281
An Application of the Laser Speckle Shift Measurement Technique for Measuring Strain in Small Diameter Wires and Fibers, L. C. Greer and L. G. Oberle, NASA/LeRC .....	296
General Procedure for Using Artificial Neural Networks to Automate the Alignment of Optical Components in Harsh Environments, A. J. Decker and M. J. Krasowski, NASA/LeRC .....	303
SSME Plume Spectral Data Obtained During Ground Testing at SSC: Analysis and Correlation with Engine Operating Characteristics, D. B. Van Dyke, G. D. Tejwani, F. E. Bircher Sverdrup Technology Inc. and T. J. Cobb Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International .....	313
SSME (TTB) and DTFT Spectral Data Quantitative Analysis, G. D. Tejwani, Sverdrup Technology, Inc. ....	327
Real Time Identification and Quantification of SSME Alloys in the DTF Exhaust Plume, F. E. Bircher and G. D. Tejwani, Sverdrup Technology .....	339

## TURBOMACHINERY

Chairpersons: P. K. McConaughey, NASA/MSFC and J. W. Gauntner, NASA/LeRC

Development of an Oxidizer Turbine for Advanced Gas Generator Rocket Engines, F. W. Huber, P. D. Johnson, X. A. Montesdeoca, Pratt & Whitney .....	352
Navier-Stokes Verification of Advanced Gas Generator Oxidizer Turbine Stages, C. Hah, NASA/LeRC .....	362
Unsteady Flow Calculation in a Single Stage of an Advanced Gas Generator Turbine, A. A. Rangwalla, Sterling Software, NASA/ARC .....	371
Simulation of Unsteady Flow for an Advanced Gas Generator Turbine at High and Low Subsonic Mach Numbers, O. P. Sharma, K. A. Belford, C. R. Soderberg, J. B. Gertz, J. B. Staubach, Pratt & Whitney and L. W. Griffin, NASA/MSFC .....	384
CFD Benchmark Data for Pump Flows, A. H. Eastland, W. Hsu, L. Brozowski, D. Chan, T. Ferguson and L. Rojas, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International .....	396

Incompressible Navier-Stokes Computations in Pump Flows, C. Kiris, MCAT Institute, D. Kwak and S. Rogers, NASA/ARC.....	406
Inducer Analysis and Pump Model Development, Y. S. Chen, Engineering Sciences, Inc., G. C. Cheng, SECA, Inc., and R. Garcia, NASA/MSFC.	417
Hydrodynamic Design of Generic Pump Components, G. H. Prueger, W.-C. Chen, D. C. Chan and A. H. Eastland, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International .....	426
Static Brush Seals for Propulsion System Interfaces, R. C. Hendricks, J. A. Carlile and A. D. Liang, B. M. Steinetz, NASA/LeRC, B. T. Easter, J. W. Onstott, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International, and H. Howe, Technetics, Inc. ....	432
Development of a Knowledge Based System for Turbopump Seals, A. D. Liang, R. C. Hendricks, NASA/LeRC, W. Shapiro, and B. Aggarwal, Mechanical Technology Inc. ....	440
Development of a CFD Code for Accurate 3D Analysis of Cylindrical Seals, A. J. Przekwas, M. M. Athavale, CFD Research Corporation, R. C. Hendricks and A. Liang, NASA/LeRC .....	447
Turbulence Measurements of High Shear Flow Fields in a Turbomachine Seal Configuration, G. L. Morrison, R. E. DeOtte, Jr., and H. D. Thames, III, Texas A & M Univ. ....	457
Thermohydrodynamic Analysis of Cryogenic Liquid Annular Seals, L. San Andres, Z. Yang, and D. W. Childs, Texas A & M University .....	468
Theory Versus Experiment for Short (L/D = 1/6) Honeycomb and Smooth Annular Pressure Seals, D. W. Childs and G. F. Kleynhans, Texas A & M Univ. ....	488
Computational Analysis of Bearings, Seals and Material Tester Cavity Flows, R. K. Avva, M. L. Ratcliff, CFD Research Corp., R. W. Williams and P. K. McConnaughey, NASA/MSFC .....	498
Probabilistic Rotor Instability Analysis, Y.-T. Wu, T. Y. Torng, and O. H. Burnside, Southwest Research Institute.....	508
NDE of PWA 1480 Single Crystal Turbine Blade Material, S. J. Klima, T. W. Orange and R. L. Dreshfield, NASA/LeRC .....	522
Cryogenic Damper-Test Facility and Curved Plate Damper Results, A. B. Palazzolo, Texas A & M Univ., A. F. Kascak, U. S. Army, R. Gadangi, J. Moore, Texas A & M Univ. and E. Olan, E. I. DuPont.....	533
Numerical Analysis of the Three-Dimensional Viscous Flow in the Pratt & Whitney SSME HPFTP Two-Stage Turbine, K. R. Kirtley, W. A. Maul, III, and T. A. Beach, Sverdrup Technologies .....	544
The Unsteady Aerodynamic Analysis: LINFL0, J. M. Verdon, United Technologies Research Center .....	557
Forced Response Prediction System (Current Status), D. V. Murthy, Univ. of Toledo and G. L. Stefko, NASA/LeRC .....	569

Analysis of Flexibility Enhancements to Rolling Element Bearing Mechanics, L. M. Greenhill, D. H. Merchant, C. S. Vallance, Gencorp Aerojet Propulsion Division, and S. G. Ryan, NASA/MSFC .....	578
Table of Contents of Volume II .....	588
List of Participants .....	593
Author Index.....	614

*NASA Conference Publication 3174, Vol. II*

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**VOLUME II**  
**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**Foreword**

**FLUID AND GAS DYNAMICS**

Chairpersons: H. G. Struck, NASA/MSFC and R. E. Gaugler, NASA/LeRC

Experimental and Computational Results from a Large, Low-Speed Centrifugal Impeller, M. D. Hathaway, U.S. Army Propulsion Directorate, R. M. Chriss, J. R. Wood, and A. J. Strazisar, NASA/LeRC .....	1
Flow Field at the Nozzle Exit of the Penn State Axial Flow Turbine Facility, B. Lakshminarayana and M. Zaccaria, Penn State Univ.....	11
Time Averaged Heat Transfer and Pressure Measurements for Comparison with Prediction for a Two- Stage Turbine, M. Dunn, J. Kim, Calspan/UB Research Center, K. Civinskas and R. Boyle, NASA/LeRC.....	25
Flow Study in Supersonic Turbine Stages for Rocket Engines, C. Hah, NASA/LeRC.....	41
Comparison of Three-Dimensional Viscous SSME Heat Transfer Computations with Experiment, R. J. Boyle, NASA/LeRC and P. W. Giel, Sverdrup Technology Inc.....	49
Two Fluid Mixing, Y. Hardalupas, H. McDonald and J. H. Whitelaw, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, United Kingdom .....	63
SSME Turbine Heat Transfer Prediction Using Advanced Turbulence Modeling, A. A. Ameri, NASA/LeRC.....	73
Applications of Two Layer Modeling to Complex Flows, C. P. Chen, K. L. Guo and P. Huang, Univ. of Alabama in Huntsville .....	85
Adaptive Grid Solutions for Internal Flow, Y.-M. Kim and B. Gatlin, Mississippi State Univ.....	95
Calculation of Internal Flow in a Hot-Gas Manifold Pilot Model, S. K. Choi, R.C. Buggeln, Scientific Research Associates, Inc .....	104
Reliability Enhancement of Navier-Stokes Codes Through Convergence Enhancement, C. L. Merkle, G. Dulikravich, S. Venkateswaran, K. Choi, and P. E. O. Buelow, Penn State University .....	114
Propulsion Applications in Numerical Grid Generation, B. K. Soni, Mississippi State Univ.....	124
Comparative Study of Advanced Turbulence Models for Turbomachinery, A. H. Hadid and M. M. Sindir, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International.....	134
Treating Convection in Sequential Solvers, W. Shyy, S. Thakur, Univ. of Florida and P. K. Tucker, NASA/MSFC .....	144

Development of Evaluation Criteria and a Procedure for Assessing Predictive Capability and Code Performance, S. J. Lin, S. L. Barson and M. M. Sindir, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International.....	154
--	-----

## **IGNITION AND COMBUSTION PROCESSES**

Chairpersons: C. S. Cornelius NASA/MSFC and M. D. Klem NASA/LeRC

Combustion-Wave Ignition for Rocket Engines, L. C. Liou, NASA/LeRC .....	165
---	-----

Experimental Results of High-Aspect-Ratio Cooling Passages, J. A. Carlile, NASA/LeRC and R. J. Quentmeyer, Sverdrup Technology, Inc.....	181
---	-----

Formed Platelet Technology for Low Cost, Long Life Combustion Chambers, W. M. Burkhardt and W. A. Hayes, Aerojet Propulsion Division .....	190
---	-----

Rocket Combustor Interactive Design (ROCCID) Methodology Development and Test Program, J. L. Pieper, T. V. Nguyen, and R. E. Walker, Aerojet Propulsion Division .....	199
---	-----

3-D Combustor Acoustic Analysis, R. J. Priem, Priem Consultants and K. J. Breisacher, NASA/LeRC .....	209
--	-----

Liquid-Propellant Combustion Instabilities in F-1 Engines: A Comprehensive Review, J. C. Oefelein and V. Yang, Penn State Univ.....	219
--	-----

Space Transportation Engine Combustion Chamber Design and Fabrication, J. D. Brady and J. C. Vega, Rocketdyne Div., Rockwell International.....	230
--	-----

## **FATIGUE/FRACTURE/LIFE**

Chairpersons: G. C. Faile, NASA/MSFC and M. A. McGaw, NASA/LeRC

Surface Crack Behavior in Inconel 718 During Elastic-Plastic Cycling, R. C. McClung and S. J. Hudak, Jr., Southwest Research Institute .....	240
---	-----

NASCRAC Fracture Mechanics Computer Code Verification, J. Favenesi, J. Lambert, Nichols Research Corp., A. R. Ingraffea, Cornell Univ., R. Stallworth and C. Wilson, NASA/MFSC .....	250
---	-----

Improvement in the Database for Crack Growth Properties of Materials, J. A. Henkener, V. B. Lawrence, L. C. Williams, Lockheed Engr. and Sci. Co. and R. G. Forman, NASA/JSC.....	258
--	-----

Cumulative Damage Concepts in Thermomechanical Fatigue, M. A. McGaw, NASA/LeRC .....	267
---	-----

Application of a Life Prediction Model for High Temperature Multiaxial Fatigue, P. J. Bonacuse, U. S. Army AVSCOM Propulsion Directorate NASA/LeRC, and S. Kalluri, Sverdrup Technology, Inc.....	279
--	-----

## **BEARING MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT AND NON-DESTRUCTIVE EVALUATION**

Chairpersons: S. J. Gentz, NASA/MSFC and R. L. Thom, NASA/MSFC

Analysis of Rolling Contact Spall Life in 440C Bearing Steel, P. C. Bastias, G. T. Hahn, V. Gupta, C. A. Rubin	Vanderbilt University and X. Leng, TRW Safety Systems.....	289
Systems Design of Advanced Bearing Steels, T. A. Stephenson C. E. Campbell and G. B. Olson, Northwestern Univ.	.....	299
Selection of Materials for Bearing Applications in Oxygen, J. Dees, J. Peterson, Lockheed-ESC and J. M. Stoltzfus, NASA/JSC .....	308	
Measurement of the Mechanical Properties of Thin, Hard Coatings at Ambient and Low Temperatures, K. B. Yoder, D. S. Stone, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, W. D. Sproul and P. J. Rudnik, Northwestern Univ.....	317	
Concerning High Eddy Current Indications in Localized Region of Raceway for ATD 440C Ball Bearing Outer Race PWA 4750349 #89566-8, H. A. Chin, D. A. Haluck, J. A. Umbach and J. T. Sinski, UTC-Pratt & Whitney .....	327	
Eddy Current Inspection of Space Shuttle Main Engine/Alternate Turbopump (SSME/AT) Bearings at Pratt & Whitney, R. R. Stephan, Pratt & Whitney/Government Engines and Space Propulsion .....	336	
Lubrication/Corrosion Protection Bimetal Coating for Cryogenic Bearing Steel AISI 9310, H. A. Chin, D. A. Haluck, R. W. Bursey, Jr. and H. M. Privett III, UTC-Pratt & Whitney .....	343	
Cryogenic Turbopump Bearing Material Development Program, R. F. Spitzer, MRC Bearing, H. A. Chin, and D. A. Haluck, Pratt & Whitney .....	353	

## **BEARINGS**

Chairpersons: R. L. Thom, NASA/MSFC and J. F. Walker, NASA/LeRC

Tribometer Testing of Turbopump Bearing Materials, Y. Naerheim S. E. McVey and E. J. Kreig, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International .....	361	
High Performance Cryogenic Traction Test Facility, P. B. Hall, NASA/MSFC and J. L. Tevaarwerk, Battelle Memorial Institute .....	369	
Improvements to the BASIC Retainer, J. B. Gleeson and J. Kannel, Battelle .....	381	
Development of Rub Tolerant Cryogenic Ball Bearing Cage for High DN Applications, R. W. Bursey, Jr, Pratt & Whitney .....	391	
Tribological Behavior of 440C/Diamond-Like-Carbon Film Couples, A. J. Slifka, R. Compos, National Inst. of Standards and Technology, R. Wei, P. Wilbur, Colorado State Univ., and D. K. Chaudhuri, Tennessee State Univ.....	398	

Development of Transient Thermo/Mechanical Bearing Analysis Methodology and Subsequent Software Implementation on a Personal Computer, D. E. Marty, J. D. Moore, and J. C. Cody, SRS Technologies.....	404
Pratt & Whitney Design and Test of Space Shuttle Main Engine (SSME) Alternate Turbopump Development (ATD) Bearings, D. A. Haluck, R. W. Bursey, Jr., and W. L. Gamble, Pratt & Whitney .....	408
Bearing Test Performed in Liquid Oxygen, H. G. Gibson and S. D. Fears, NASA/MSFC.....	417
Application of Compliant Fluid-Film Bearings to the High-Pressure Oxygen Turbopump of the SSME, H. Heshmat, W. Shapiro and A. Artiles, Mechanical Technology Inc.....	429
Bearing Coolant Flow Optimization, M. R. Subbaraman, J. E. Keba and A. H. Hadid, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International, and T. R. Tyler, Micro Craft, Inc.....	439
Lewis Research Center Cryogenic Bearing Tester Results, J. F. Walker, NASA/LeRC and F. Schuller, Sverdrup/LeRC.....	450
Analysis of Cryogenic Turbopump Bearings by XPS and SEM/EDS, S. V. Pepper, J. Walker, D. Jayne, A. Korenyi-Both, F. Honeycutt, and C. DellaCorte, NASA/LeRC	461
Operating Characteristics of an 85-MM Ball Bearing in RP-1 to 1.7 Million DN, H. E. Addy, Jr., NASA/LeRC and F. T. Schuller, Sverdrup Technology.....	471
Overview of Foil Bearing Investigations at Penn State, M. Carpino, Penn State Univ.....	483
Tests of a Cryogenic Magnetic Bearing with Permanent Magnet Bias, E. DiRusso and G. V. Brown, NASA/LeRC.....	491
<b>STRUCTURAL DYNAMICS</b>	
Chairpersons: L. A. Kiefling, NASA/MSFC and C. C. Chamis, NASA/LeRC	
Reliability/Risk Methods for Engine Structures, C. C. Chamis, NASA/LeRC .....	501
Structural Reliability Assessment (SRA) Capability in NESSUS, H. Millwater, and Y.-T. Wu, Southwest Research Institute .....	511
Probabilistic Boundary Element Structural Analysis, Q. Huang and T. A. Cruse, Vanderbilt Univ.....	522
Probabilistic Space Shuttle Main Engine Load Simulation: Enhanced Capability, J. F. Newell, and H. Ho, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International .....	532
Blade Tip Rubbing Test Experience, G. A. Davis and R. C. Clough, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International .....	542
An Interactive Fluid/Structure Interaction Analysis Computer Program, B. L. Liu, J. M. O'Farrell, K. S. Ray, Rockwell International, T. E. Nesman, and D. K. Reed, NASA/MSFC .....	552

Acoustic Characteristics of Turbomachinery Cavities, M. J. Lucas and K. J. Plotkin, Wyle Laboratories.....	562
Exploring How Shroud Constraints Can Affect Vibratory Response in Turbomachinery, J. H. Griffin and M.-T. Yang, Carnegie Mellon Univ.....	569
Detection of Degradation in Turbomachinery Bearings, W. D. Dorland, T. Coffin, and J. Cockburn, Wyle Laboratories.....	579
Some Recent Developments in Turbomachinery Diagnostic Monitoring, J. Y. Jong, T. Coffin, W. L. Swanson, Wyle Laboratories, J. E. McBride, J. H. Jones, and P. C. Jones, T. F. Zoladz, NASA/MSFC.....	586

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An Advanced Framework for Control of Reusable Rocket Engines, E. Nemeth, R. R. Anderson, J. Maram, A. Norman, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International, and W. Merrill, NASA/LeRC .....	595
A Demonstration of an Intelligent Control System for a Reusable Rocket Engine, J. L. Musgrave, D. E. Paxson, NASA/LeRC, J. S. Litt, U. S. Army, and W. C. Merrill, NASA/LeRC .....	613
Real-Time Diagnostics for a Reusable Rocket Engine, T. H. Guo, W. Merrill, NASA/LeRC and A. Duyar, Florida Atlantic Univ.....	622
Implementation of an Intelligent Control System, D. L. Simon, U.S. Army, E. Wong, and J. L. Musgrave, NASA/LeRC.....	634
Life Extending Control for Rocket Engines, C. F. Lorenzo, J. R. Saus, NASA/LeRC, A. Ray, M. Carpino, M.-K. Wu, Penn State Univ.....	644
Procedural Automation of Space Shuttle Main Engine (SSME) Fault Diagnostics, J. Pooley and W. Thompson, SPARTA, J. McBride, J. Jones and T. Zoladz, NASA/MSFC .....	661
Accommodation of Repressurization and Venting Effects in the SSME Real-Time Failure Control Algorithm, H. Panossian and V. Kemp, Rockwell International.....	684
Table of Contents of Volume I .....	691
List of Participants .....	696
Author Index.....	717

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## **APPENDIX II**

**"Hydrogen Effects on Materials in Propulsion Systems"**

**In Press**

**Table of Contents and Participant List**

## **WORKSHOP ON HYDROGEN EFFECTS ON MATERIALS IN PROPULSION SYSTEMS**

Chairpersons: B. N. Bhat, NASA/MSFC, R. M. Horn, A. W. Thompson

Opening Remarks: R. J. Schwinghamer, NASA/MSFC .....	1
Hydrogen Effects in Advanced Aerospace Materials, H. G. Nelson, NASA/ARC .....	2
Facilities for Mechanical Property Testing in Gaseous Hydrogen, M. R. Shanabarger, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara .....	12
Hydrogen Test Standardization Tensile Tests, W. B. McPherson NASA/MSFC .....	23
Hydrogen Test Standardization Status of the Low Cycle Fatigue Tests, B. McPherson, NASA/MSFC .....	35
NLS Hydrogen Standardization Activities, R. P. Jewett, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International .....	45
Hydrogen Trapping in Superalloys, R. Jacobs and E. J. Vesely, Jr., IITRI/MRF .....	54
High Pressure Hydrogen Permeation of Composite Protective Coatings, E. D. Roll and R. N. Pangborn, The Pennsylvania State University .....	67
Application of Expert System Technology to Hydrogen Environment Embrittlement of SSME Alloys, W. F. Kaukler and G. L. Workman, University of Alabama in Huntsville .....	76
Assessment of Candidate Rocket Propulsion Materials in Gaseous Hydrogen Environment, V. A. Gibson, D. P. Dennies, and R. M. Horn, Aerojet .....	85
Hydrogen Evaluation of Incoloy 909 for the NLS Liquid Hydrogen TPA Turbine, D. P. Dennies, V. A. Gibson, and R. M. Horn, Aerojet Propulsion Division .....	95
Subcritical Crack Growth of Alloy 718 in Ni/H <sub>2</sub> Power Cell Environments, W. Cullen, G. Grewal, N. Pruitt, Materials Engineering Associates, S. Lenhart, C. Halbach, Space Systems/Loral, K. Garr, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International .....	101
The Effect of Machining Techniques, Notch Design and Strain Rate on the Notched Tensile Strength of Inconel 718 in High Pressure Hydrogen, R. Bond, M. Watwood, and E. J. Vesely, Jr. IITRI/MRF .....	111
Influence of Hydrogen on Fatigue Crack Growth of a Single Crystal Alloy, J. Telesman NASA/LeRC and L. J. Ghosn, Sverdrup Technology Inc. ....	121
The Low Cycle Fatigue and Tensile Behaviors of Ni-Base Superalloys PWA 1480 and PWA 1489 in Hydrogen, P. S. Chen, E. Vesely, B. Panda, IITRI/MRF W. D. Hamilton and R. A. Parr, NASA/MSFC ..	133
Development of JBK-75 for Service in High Pressure Hydrogen Environments: The Role of Microstructure, N. R. Moody, J. A. Brooks, Sandia National Laboratories and A. W. Thompson, Carnegie Mellon Univ.....	145

Properties of Cast and Wrought NASA-23 Alloy, B. Panda, ITTRI/MRF and B. N. Bhat NASA/MSFC .....	156
Effect of Chromium on the Hydrogen HEE Resistance of IN-903 Type Alloys, A. K. Kuruvilla, B. Panda ITTRI/MRF and B. N. Bhat, NASA/MSFC .....	166
Improved Crack Growth in Hydrogen with Modified Precipitate Morphology Single Crystal Nickel, D. P. DeLuca, H. B. Jones, B. A. Cowles, and F. D. Cobia, Pratt & Whitney .....	173
Material Structural Characterization of Inconel-718, K. J. Chang, D. A. Russell, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International and M. J. Verrilli, NASA/LeRC .....	184
Macroscopic and Microscopic Modeling of Hydrogen Embrittlement Thresholds, W. W. Gerberich, H. Huang, P. G. March, Univ. of Minnesota .....	196
The Cumulative Fatigue Damage Behavior of MAR-M-247 in Air and High Pressure Hydrogen, M. A. McGaw, NASA/LeRC, S. Kalluri, Sverdrup Technology Inc., D. Moore, NASA/MSFC, and J. Heine, Pratt & Whitney .....	205
Grain Boundary and Interface Cohesion in the Presence of a Steep Hydrogen Gradient, (A Preliminary Auger-Fracture Study) R. G. Thompson, B. H. King, M. C. Koopman and D. W. Davis, Univ. of Alabama at Birmingham .....	216
Effect of Hydrogen Exposure on the Microstructure and Mechanical Properties of the Titanium Alloy, Beta 21S, D. A. Hardwick, Rockwell International Science Center and D. G. Ulmer, Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International .....	228
Hydrogen Effects in Titanium Aluminide Alloys, A. W. Thompson, Carnegie Mellon Univ. ....	236
Hydrides in Ti <sub>3</sub> Al Alloys, D. B. Allen and A. W. Thompson, Carnegie Mellon Univ. ....	244
Temperature-Pressure Effects of Hydrogen on Room Temperature Flexural Strength of SiC and Si <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub> , M. A. Isham, NASA/MSFC .....	253
<b>Closing Remarks</b> B. Bhat, NASA/MSFC .....	261
<b>List of Participants</b> .....	262
<b>Author Index</b> .....	265

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